

Meeting Summary of the Senate Bill 375 Regional Targets Advisory Committee (RTAC)

Teleconference
Wednesday, April 22, 2009
Suite 300
Sacramento Area Council of Governments
1415 L Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Discussion Highlights

RTAC Chair, Mike McKeever, began the meeting by reviewing three issues the RTAC needs to address between now and September 2009:

1. Decide on the metric used to measure performance.
2. Advise ARB on how to judge/evaluate the targets.
3. Advise ARB on how to validate regional strategies used to meet these targets.

Developing a Regional Emission Reduction Target

ARB staff reviewed and provided additional explanation of the questions regarding metrics for targets that were presented at the last RTAC meeting. The presentation focused on describing the different choices available when deciding how an emission target should be expressed. The choices are as follows:

- Uniform statewide or MPO specific
- Absolute or relative
- Reduction from current year conditions or reduction from future year conditions

No final decisions were reached on the targets. RTAC members discussed and made the following observations with regards to the three options for target metrics:

Uniform statewide vs. MPO specific:

- Discussion leaned toward a MPO specific approach to account for regional differences, however, there were distinct opinions that a uniform target would be easiest to develop.
- Periodic adjustments of the targets may be necessary.
- Regional equity issues should be considered in light of regional differences.
- The methodology should be able to adjust for all regional variables.
- Credit be given to regions that are making “good” policy choices.

- A logarithmic uniform statewide approach could be developed.
- RTAC requested region specific data in order to set the stage for the next level of discussion.

Absolute or Relative:

- Relative seemed to be the preferred choice during the discussion.
- A per capita approach recognizes that there are significant dynamics amongst the regions.
- Per capita approach should consider demographics and the differences within each region.
- Per driver and per household units correlate best with trip making. Trip making tends to occur in family units.
- RTAC requested additional information regarding the pros and cons for each per unit metric.

Current year vs. future year comparison:

- Current year was favored during discussion.
- Need consideration of regional growth rates over time and ensure targets are adjusted as needed.
- What would be the current year? What year would be appropriate as a benchmark?
- How would CARB update the targets?

Interregional Travel:

Interregional travel was introduced briefly. Staff presented an initial overview of options to consider when accounting for interregional travel. RTAC members discussed the several ways regions could choose to account for emissions related with interregional travel. Several issues were discussed, such as:

- Balance between jobs and affordable housing
- Influence and incentives of retail locations
- Consideration of purely “recreational” trips
- Who is accountable for trips that just go through a region to reach a destination?
- Need to encourage interregional collaboration.

RTAC Requests to Staff

RTAC members requested additional information on how the scoping plan and SB 375 relate and how ARB might monitor the progress toward targets.

Members present:

Chesley, A.

Devereaux, G.

Doyle, S.

Eaken, A.

McKeever, M.

Parks, L.

Rawson, M.

Walters, J.

Woo, M.

Wunderman, J.

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